ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF MEDFIELD,

INCLUDING THE

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE,

AND OTHER STATISTICS,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

FEBRUARY 1, 1870.

MEDFIELD.
STILLMAN J. SPEAR, PRINTER.
1870.

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TOWN OFFICERS FOR 1869.

Selectmen, Assessors, and Overseers of the Poor.

CHARLES HAMANT, WILLIAM C. ALLEN,
ALONZO B. PARKER.

Town Clerk.

HENRY J. EVERETT.

Treasurer.

ISAAC FISKE.

Collector.

MARTIN BAILEY.

Constable.

CHARLES HAMANT.

School Committe.

CHARLES C. SEWELL, HENRY J. EVERETT,
CHARLES HAMANT.

Surveyors of Highways.

HAMLET WHITE, EBEN. T. SEARS,
ALONZO B. PARKER,
CHARLES H. RUSSELL, DANIEL D. HAMANT,
WILLIAM F. GUILD.

Fire Wards.

CHARLES HAMANT, FRANCIS RHODES,
H. F. BULLARD.

Auditor of Accounts.

SAMUEL ELLIS.

TREASURER'S REPORT

OF THE

RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES

OF THE

TOWN OF MEDFIELD,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING FEB. 1. 1870.

RECEIPTS.

Balance in Treasury Feb. 1, 1869,	$1,152 60
Received on taxes for the year 1865,	66 13
" " 1866,	51 25
" " 1867,	108 65
" " 1868,	1,101 09
" " 1869,	6,583 00
interest on taxes for 1866, 1867, 1868,	30 59
corporation tax,	738 11
State aid to pensioners,	216 00
interest on school fund,	227 16
State school fund,	130 41
Boston, Hartford & Erie R. R., damage by fire,	200 00
produce and milk from Town Farm,	24 94
cows sold,	100 00
hay sold from Cemetery,	16 00
State for Dog licenses,	91 34
Luther Guild for plank,	1 50
Money borrowed,	154 00
	$10,992 77

EXPENDITURES.

SCHOOLS.

Paid Mary B. Wilder, for teaching,		$75 00
Laura Clark	" "	165 00
Lucy M. Lane	" "	161 50
Miss S. M. Damon	"	166 00
Mrs. A. A. Mason	"	120 00
Miss L. B. Keith	"	190 00
" M. E. Morse	"	180 00
" Jane A. Esty	"	119 00
" S. J. Wood	"	161 50
		$1,338 00

CARE OF SCHOOL-HOUSES, FUEL, & REPAIRS.

Paid, wood for North School,	$57 50
sawing wood, making fires, & supplies, North School,	39 50
wood and coal, Centre School,	86 57
making fires and care Centre School,	18 50
wood for South School,	24 25
sawing wood and making fires South School,	18 04
repairs on North school-house,	109 15
" Centre "	20 50
" South "	2 50
	$376 51

ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Paid E. T. Sears, Highway Surveyor,	$75 40
Hamlet Wight, " "	137 23
" " removing snow and repairs,	13 45
A. B. Parker, Highway Surveyor,	160 00
Amount carried forward,	$386 08

Amount brought forward,	$386 08
Paid C. H. Russell, " "	214 15
" " removing snow and repairs,	6 50
" " extra work on Causeway St.	100 00
D. D. Hamant, Highway surveyor,	105 00
Wm. F. Guild, " "	96 58
" " for plank,	7 35
Wm. C. Allen, removing snow,	7 00
Geo. W. Kingsbury, removing snow, and repairs,	7 40
Warren Plimpton, for gravel,	1 00
Geo. Fiske, labor on Main St.	3 00
" " covering stone for bridge,	10 00
H. P. Bruce, lengthening culvert,	23 50
T. S. Clark, drawing stone for bridge,	14 00
Smith & Bramble, 300 yards of gravel on Mill St.	22 50
	$1,004 06

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

Paid sundry tax-bills for the year 1865,	$23 04
" " 1866,	6 50
" " 1867,	6 48
Henry O. Noyes, Poll tax,	2 00
	$38 02

TOWN OFFICERS.

Paid Wm. C. Allen, services Selectman and Assessor,	$32 00
Charles Hamant, " "	100 00
A. B. Parker, " "	100 00
H. J. Everett, " Town Clerk,	25 00
" " Collector, 1865	44 56
Martin Bailey, " " 1865,	3 94
Orion Wight, " " 1867 & 1868,	91 76
Geo. Fiske, " Auditor 1869,	4 00
Stationary and postage for Selectmen,	3 00
	$404 26

PAUPER EXPENSES OUT OF ALMSHOUSE.

Paid for J. W. Coltman,	$189 50
for Jane M. Ellis,	249 80
for Mrs. John Hayford,	59 50
for Mary Peters,	108 51
for Noah P. Clark,	16 00
for Rachel Clark,	40 28
" " funeral expenses,	25 50
	$689 09

PRINTING.

Paid for 250 copies of Town Report,	$20 00
for 275 copies of School Report,	31 00
John Cox, Tax bills &c.	10 00
H. O. Hildreth,	4 00
	$65 00

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Paid F. Rhodes, care of Engine and repairs,	$12 00
S. G. Cheever, repairing hose,	2 75
T. L. Barney, lantern for Engine,	1 25
	$16 00

CEMETERY.

Paid Martin Bailey for labor,	$28 00

STATE TAX.

Paid State Treasurer,	$1650 00
State Aid.	$332 00

NOTES AND INTEREST.

Paid James Foley Note and interest,	$54 00
David Maney, " "	105 88
Charles Hamant,	131 72
Charles Hamant, Trustee,	114 72
individuals as interest,	84 00
	$490 32

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Paid Daniel D. Curtis for use of Hall one year,	20 00
" " care of Town clock,	25 00
A. W. Cleavland, damage from defect in highway,	10 00
Wm. Henshaw, exchange in Geographies,	25 00
E. L. Ward, in full for services, care of Town Farm,	85 91
recording 11 marriages; 19 births: 13 deaths,	9 95
H. F. Bullard, stock and labor on Hearse house,	27 23
Appraisers of property of School District-,	17 25
Geo. W. Kingsbury, for grinding 62 bushels of corn,	4 96
Clark & Leatherby, for lumber,	198 04
Boston, Hartford & Erie R. R., freight on lumber,	9 80
for 4 Rattle-snakes killed,	4 00
H. F. Bullard for labor,	36 00
Walpole tax,	4 28
O. Clifford for cow,	50 00
J. A. Newall, balance on cattle,	55 00
George A. Ellis, survey and plan of Avenue,	20 00
J. C. Lovering, services as Surveyor,	14 50
W. C. Allen, expenses to Bernardstown,	14 50
D. Hoisington,	6 21
Committee on Roads,	12 52
for labor on Town Farm,	40 00
I. Fiske, Merchandise and postage,	164 76
	$854 91

RECAPITULATION.

Paid for Schools,	$1338 00
care of school-houses and repairs,	376 51
roads and bridges,	1004 06
abatement of taxes,	38 02
Town Officers,	404 26
paupers out of Almshouse,	689 09
printing,	65 00
fire department,	16 00
cemetery,	28 00
State tax,	1650 00
State aid to pensioners,	332 00
notes and interest,	490 32
incidental expenses,	854 91
	$7286 17
Total amount of receipts,	$10,992 77
" " payments,	7,286 17
Balance in Treasury, Feb. 1st 1870	$3706 60

LIABILITIES OF THE TOWN.

Nearly due for Winter schools, about	$450 00
Trustee's school fund note, 6 per cent,	800 00
" " "	66 53
" " "	350 00
Trustee's ministerial fund, "	141 00
" " "	330 00
G. W. Shumway, "	60 00
" " "	100 00
G. W. Oliver, "	50 00
Stephen Turner, "	200 00
" " "	100 00
Caroline B. Phillips, "	500 00
Amount carried forward,	$3147 53

Amount brought forward,		$3147 53
Mary C. Keith,	"	500 00
David Maney,	"	50 00
Prudence Lovell,	"	170 00
William Crane,	"	50 00
		$3917 53

RESOURCES OF THE TOWN.

Balance in Treasury, Feb. 1. 1870,	$3706 60
Due on Taxes 1867, exclusive of interest	64 64
" " 1868, " "	156 52
" " 1869, " "	989 40
Due for State aid for pensioners,	408 00
from Town of West Roxbury,	300 00
sale of wood by auction,	60 75
	$5685 91
Resources exceed liabilities,	$1768 38

ISAAC FISKE, *Treasurer.*

MEDFIELD, FEB. 1. 1870.

Vouchers examined, and account found correct.

SAMUEL ELLIS *Auditor.*

REPORT,

OF THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

RECEIPTS.

Received for Furniture sold.	$1	50
potatoes,	15	67
milk,	46	94
calves,	85	25
butter,	187	86
eggs,	2	64
board of travellers,	146	37
cranberries,	26	00
pork,	24	63
lard,	5	30
meadow hay,	47	14
labor off the farm,	20	75
rags .31, tobacco .10,		41
barley,	2	50
chickens,	4	96
boards and shingles,	2	55
beef,	36	54
hide and tallow,	9	70
boards sold D. D. Curtis,	10	12
Boston, Hartford, and E, R. R. damage by fire,	200	00
milk sold by E. L. Ward,	24	94
cows sold,	100	00
cash of Town Treasurer,	616	77
	$1618	54

PAYMENTS.

Paid blacksmith's work $26.49 ; hay 20.56	$847	05
muzzles .75 ; seed corn 1.17,	1	92
labor on the farm 116.97 ; balance on oxen 10.00,	126	97
thread 1.63 ; brooms 2.05,	3	78
shavings .15 ; eggs .35,		50
pork barrel 2.90 ; wheel and rope 3.55,	6	45
mending boots .55 ; paper .25,		80
" tin ware .20 ; beef 2.00,	2	20
medical attendance 11.25 ; use of roller .30,	11	55
in part for cow 45.00 ; grinding 1.24,	46	24
seive .50 ; matches .60,	1	10
pail 1.50 ; tub .50,	2	00
seed potatoes 3.10 ; fish 33.83,	36	93
bread 12.82 ; skimmer .25,	13	07
tin dish .06 ; yeast .27,		33
soap .25 ; cash to inmates 9.00,	9	25
lemons .29 ; whip .30,		59
shoe-strings .10 ; oil 1.00,	1	10
shorts 4.25 ; sweet potatoes .75,	5	00
shoes 1.80 ; medicine .45,	2	25
tobacco 3.10 ; ice 1.45,	1	55
2 galls. vinegar 1.00 ; 1 1-2 bushels of rye 3.00,	4	00
shovel .25 ; combs .57,		82
tomato plants .70 ; clock 1.00,	1	70
bed cord .75 ; spectacles 1.25,	2	00
elastics .15 ; plaster .90,	1	05
plank 2.41 ; 3 table spoons 1.25	3	66
tea 2.25 ; whitewashing 7.50,	9	75
mustard .28 ; rake 1.00,	1	28
6 pans 2.40 ; halter 2.50,	4	90
camphor .65 ; wheelwright work .50,	1	15
axe-handle .30 ; whip .20,		50
cream pail .92 ; ox yoke 4.00,	4	92
tea pot .40 ; use of plough .20,		60
filing saws .45 ; slabs 1.20,	1	65
Amount carried forward,	$361	61

Amount brought forward,	$361 61
Paid 4 shoats 24.00 ; bill-hook 1.50,	25 50
wash bowl .50 ; sleigh bells 1.00,	1 50
Stove brackets,	1 75
T. L. Barney's bill of merchandise,	236 31
E. L. Ward, balance,	85 91
grinding, 4.96 : Clark & Leatherbee 198.04,	203 00
freight bill 9.80 : labor H. F. Bullard 36.00,	45 80
stock 105.00 : Town Treasurer 324.94,	429 94
W. P. Hewins for meat 80.30 : I. Fiske's bill, 141.24	221 54
	$1612 76
Balance in hands of Overseers,	5 78
	$1618 54

APPRAISAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, FEB. 1. 1870

2 oxen $185.00 : 6 cows 390.00,	$575 00
1 horse 200.00 : 4 shoats 40.00,	240 00
14 fowls 7.00 : 8 tons English hay 200.00,	207 00
8 tons meadow hay 78.00 : corn fodder 8.00,	86 00
Barley straw 10.00 : 75 bushels corn 93.75,	103 75
2 bushels rye 2.50 : 17 bushels barley 21.25,	23 75
1000 shingles 7.00 : 21 cords wood 105.00,	112 00
2 bbls. vinegar 16.00 : 150 bush. potatoes 90.00,	106 00
6 bush. turnips 3.60 : 15 small do. 3.75,	7 35
100 lbs. beef 14.00 : 500 lbs. pork 100.00,	114 00
180 lbs. ham 36.00 ; 100 lbs. lard 25.00,	61 00
25 lbs. butter 11.25 : 1-2 bbl. flour 5.00,	16 25
3 bushels beans 9.00 12 lbs. apple 2.40,	11 40
Can .75 : wash tubs 100,	1 75
Brass kettle 5.00 : 3 meat barrels 5.00,	10 00
3 stone jars 1.50 : cook stove 25.00,	26 50
30 milk pans 5.00 : churn 7.50,	12 50
Boards,	20 00
Clothes wringer,	10 00
Amount carried forward,	$1744 25

Amount brought forward,	$1744 25
6 hay forks 2,50 ; manure forks, 2.50,	5 00
Potatoe digger .25 ; 3 hoes, and iron bar 2.50	2 75
Ploughs and horse hoe,	16 00
Wagon and draught harness,	18 00
Horse hay wagon, 70.00 ; 2 ox carts 50.00,	120 00
Ox wagon 40.00 ; ox wagon wheels, 2.00,	45 00
Buffalo robe 2.00 ; sleigh 5.00,	7 00
Wood saw and horse 1.75 ; saw, shave and augur 1 00,	2 75
4 meal bags .80 ; measure .50,	1 30
Scythes and snathes 2.25 ; axes 3.00,	5 25
Cranberry screen 1.00 ; cranberry rakes 3.00	4 00
Adze and square .50 ; corncutters and rakes 1.00,	1 50
3 stake chains .75 ; log and draught chains 2.50	3 25
Express wagon 140.00 ; 2 ox yokes 5.00	145 00
Horse hay rake 7.00 ; mower 80.00,	87 00
Haycutter and trough 8.00 harrow 3.00,	11 00
Ox sled 4.00 ; ladders 5.00,	9 00
	$2,225 05
Appraisal February 1. 1869.	2,095 88
Gains,	$129 17
Receipts,	$1618 54
	$1747 71
Deduct received from Treasurer,	259 97
Balance,	$1487 74
Due for sale of wood,	60 75
" from Town of West Roxbury,	300 00
" "E. T. Sears for labor,	11 50
Income of Farm,	$1859 99
Amount of Payments,	1612 76
	$247 23
Nearly due, Keeper's salary,	300 00
Balance against the farm,	$52 77

Whole number paupers, 4
Average number of paupers, 4

viz. *Name.*	*Age.*	*Where born.*
Silas Allen,	75	Medfield.
Harriet Leland,	80	Sherborn.
Thomas Floyd,	74	Medford.
Susan Floyd,	73	Sutton.

At Hospitals,

J. W. Coltman,	at Worcester.	Boston.
Jane M. Ellis,	at Taunton.	Ireland.

179 meals furnished transient persons.

CHARLES HAMANT.
ALONZO B. PARKER.
WILLIAM C. ALLEN.
Overseers of the Poor.

MEDFIELD, FEB. 1. 1870.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

Number of births during the year 1869, 19 — males, 11; females, 8. Marriages in 1869, 10. Deaths recorded in 1869, 12. Average length of life, 47 years 5 months.

DEATHS IN MEDFIELD FOR THE YEAR 1869.

Name.	Age.	Disease.	Place of birth
Henrietta Schlusemeyer,	21	Child birth.	Medway.
Hinsdale Fisher,	82	Heart disease.	Medfield.
Obed Allen,	86	" "	"
Augusta Clark,	43	Consumption.	Dover.
Julia A. Smith,	26	" "	Medfield.
Orion Wight,	70	Disease of Kidneys.	"
Augenette Noyes,	42	Consumption.	"
Hannah A. Fairbanks,	35	Disease of brain.	Boston.
Susan F. Cole,	25	Consumption.	Medfield.
Mary J. Turner,	43	Lung fever.	Sherborn.
Arthur S. Turner,	11	" "	Medfield.
Eliza H. Smith,	75	Apoplexy.	Eastham.

The whole number of births recorded from the incorporation of the town in 1651 to January 1. 1870, 4000. Average for the 218 years, 18. Deaths recorded during the same period, 2233. Average, 10. Thus it will appear that the births and deaths during the year 1869, vary but little from the average number of yearly births and deaths recorded since the incorporation of the town.

HENRY J. EVERETT.
Registrar.

STATISTICS OF MEDFIELD.

Area of Town, 9205 acres. Covered by water, 28 acres.
Taken for Highways, 147 acres.
Total length of highways, 37 1-4 miles.
Acres of land taxed, 7,933 1-2.
Total value of Real estate, 468,897.00.
" " Personal estate, 268,546.00.
No. of dwelling-houses, 255. Horses, 169. Cows, 421. Sheep, 6.
Town incorporated May, 23. 1651.

POPULATION AT DIFFERENT PERIODS.

1764	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860
628	731	745	786	892	817	883	966	1082

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The financial year which has just closed has been one, in some respects, of extraordinary interest, forming an era in the history of the town, that will not, as we trust, be without its favorable influence upon our future growth and prosperity. We now have railroad facilities, second only, to comparatively few towns in our Commonwealth.

A new and pleasant Avenue, about one mile in length, has been laid out from the central village, commencing at Cottage Street, and terminating at West Mill Street, opposite the junction of the Boston, Hartford, and Erie, and Mansfield and Framingham Railroads; and we cannot dismiss this last mentioned improvement, without gratefully remembering the generosity and true public spirit of the several owners of the valuable lands through which this avenue passes, viz. Messrs. John J. Adams, William P. Hewins, Samuel Ellis, Amos E. Mason, and Daniel D. Curtis, who freely gave their lands for the public use; and though the first cost of grading, may seem somewhat burdensome to our tax payers, yet we believe that ultimately the town will be fully compensated for the outlay.

MT. NEBO STREET.

The subject of an appropriation for specific repairs of this street, was referred in general terms to our Board. No directions were given, or funds voted for this purpose. The question arose among some of our citizens residing near this locality, whether or not, a new and better road, could be laid and graded, to accomodate the public travel, from some point on Main St. near the house of F. S. Wight, (taking an old road, a portion of the distance,) and intersecting Foundry St., near the house of Mrs. Joseph Hardy. Accordingly we made a careful survey of the proposed new road, measuring the distances of both, and noting the necessary repairs on the old street, to make it safe and convenient for travel. A very full verbal report of our investigations was made at the November meeting; but no directions were given for any action in the premises. We are decidedly of the opinion, that as a question of economy, merely, there should be some prompt action in relation to this subject,

RAILROAD CROSSINGS.

The Mansfield and Framingham Railroad, crosses our highways at nine different points. With reference to all crossings of this kind, the Railroad Commissioners of the Commonwealth, in their Report to the present house of Representatives, say, "The *control* of this matter rests with the County Commissioners, but this Board will take the liberty to suggest that in future, crossings at grades should not be allowed when it is possible to avoid them, and all roads should be carried over, or under the railroads where it can be done." The Railroad Corporation while constructing their road, petitioned our County Commissioners, to direct the manner of our several crossings, as provided by law. At the meeting subsequently held for that purpose, we appeared in behalf of the town, and the adjudication then and there determined upon, we believed would be perfectly satisfactory to our citizens; and though it has not as yet, to our knowledge, become a matter of record, we are assured by the Chairman of our County Commissioners, that their order will be "substantially enforced." This order will render it necessary for the Company to raise their bridge at Frairy St., higher than now

laid ; also to raise the track at Main St. to very nearly a level with the general grade of the street ; both, improvements so obvious, as to require no arguments favoring them. We have not desired to throw unnecessary burdens upon the Company, but have felt the importance, at the commencement, of having these crossings such as would be generally satisfactory to this and succeeding generations.

TOWN MEETINGS.

For many years it has been customary to hold two public meetings for town business, one in March, the other in April. We can see no good reasons why a second meeting should be held, when all the usual business could be accomplished at the Annual meeting, and in many respects, if necessary, it would be far better to adjourn the March meeting, than to issue a new warrant. We merely suggest this subject for your consideration.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN.

Appended to this report, will be found some interesting statistics relating to the origin and settlement of this town, gathered, so far as is proposed to publish herewith, mostly from our first records by the late Herman Mann, deceased.

In doing this we have introduced a new feature in our annual report, which if approved, may be continued in future reports, until brought up to the present time ; thus aiding the future Historian of the town, in furnishing some material for his work. Ours, is one of the ancient towns.and the lapse of time but adds interest to its early history.

It will be seen by reference to the Treasurer's, Report that our finances are in a good condition. After the entire payment of all our indebtedness we have a surplus of more than Seventeen hundred dollars in the treasury ; and when we consider how recently we were burdened with extraordinary expenses, and the large number of cities and towns that are still indebted for expenses incurred during the late civil war, thus increasing their rate of taxation to a per centage much greater than our own,—the excellent condition of our public buildings, the most of them nearly new,—our well graded

roads,— our beautiful and healthy location,— our railroad facilities, and the general character of the population, we offer superior inducements to "the retiring man of business," the artisan, and the laborer, to become permanent citizens of MEDFIELD.

CHARLES HAMANT,
WILLIAM C. ALLEN,
ALONZO B. PARKER,
Selectmen.

MEDFIELD, FEB. 1, 1870

SETTLEMENT OF MEDFIELD.

In the year 1649, it was determined to commence a settlement near Bogastow, now the town of Medfield. A petition of the inhabitants of Dedham for the grant of a tract of land, "towards the accomodation of a Town to be erected and set up in or near that place commonly called Bogastow," having been granted by the general court, the "22d of the 8th month," corresponding to the first day of November, a general meeting of the inhabitants was held on the 24th day of November, for the further consideration of the subject.

At this meeting, there was "granted for the accommodation of the villiage so much land within the west end of the bounds of Dedham, next Bogastow, as is or may be contained within the extent of three miles east and west, and four miles north and south — the form and lines in laying out to be varied and altered as in the judgement of such men as shall be deputed thereunto shall seem for the most convenient accomodation both of Dedham and the said villiage."

The question respecting the conditions upon which this grant of lands was made, having been fully discussed, it was resolved by vote, that "the said land is by some intended to be freely given, and by others, in consideration of part of the meadows, to have such satisfaction for their right therein as in the division of one hundred pounds divided by common rules of division to those of the

inhabitants of Dedham that remove not to the villiage may come to their share; but that part of the estate of them that remove, that abides in the town, shall receive dividends, as other estates do."

A committee was chosen by the town to have the management of affairs at Medfield, "until there is such a company of men engaged in that plantation and associated together as the town of Dedham shall judge meet for that work and trust."

This committee immediately proceeded to the work of forming a company to occupy the new settlement. By virtue of the authority given them by the town of Dedham, they adopt the following regulations for the present government thereof: —

"For as much as for the further promulgation of the Gospel and the subduing of this part of the Earth, amongst the rest given to the sons of Adam, and the enlargement of the bounds of the habitations formerly designed by God to some of his people in this wilderness, it hath pleased the Lord to move and direct as well the much honored General Court as also the inhabitants of the Town of Dedham, each of them in part to grant such a tract of land in that place called Bogastow and the adjacent parts thereabouts, as is adjudged a meet place for the erecting and settling a Town, we the persons whose names are here underwritten being by the inhabitants of Dedham, elected, chosen, and authorized, for the ordering and managing the said Town, or villiage, to be erected for the due settling thereof, as also for the preventing of questions, mistakes, disorders and contentions that may arise, do order, determine and resolve as followeth;

"1st. That all persons whatsoever that shall receive lands by grants from the said Town now called Meadfield, shall become subject to all such orders in any part or points of Town government as are at present, or hereafter by the authorities of said town shall be made and appointed for the ordering, regulating, or government thereof, provided they be not repugnant to the orders, or any order, of the General Court, from time to time, and that every such grantee shall for the firmer engagement of himself and his successors, their use, subscribe his name to our Town Book, or otherwise his grants made to him shall hereby be made void and of none effect.

"2d. That if differences, questions, or contentions shall fall out or arise, any manner of ways in our society, or between any parties therein, that they shall really endeavor to resolve and issue the same in the most peaceable way and manner, before it shall come to any place of public judicature, except it be in our own town.

3d. That we shall all of us in said town faithfully endeavor that only such be received to our society and township, as we may have sufficient satisfaction in; that they are honest, peaceable, and free from scandal and erroneous opinions.

4th. That none of us, the inhabitants aforesaid, or our successors at any time hereafter for the space of seven years from the date hereof, upon any pretence whatsoever, without the consent of the selectmen for the time being first had and obtained, shall alienate assign, and set over for the space of one whole year, any part or parcel of land formerly granted to him or them by the town, except it be to some formerly accepted of by our society; always provided, that this shall in no sort hinder any heir at common law."

Signed by HENRY CHICKERING, RALPH WHEELOCK, JOHN DWIGHT, THOMAS WIGHT, PETER WOODWARD, ROBERT HINSDALE, ELEAZER LUSHER, } *Selectmen.*

Three only of this committee, viz. Messrs. Wheelock, Wight, and Hinsdale, removed to Medfield.

The following are the names of the persons who subscribed to form the Society for removing to Medfield:

Ralph Wheelock	Joseph Daniels	Benjamin Crane
Thomas Wight	John Wight	Thomas Mason
John Frary	Robert Hinsdale	Edward Adams
John Plimpton	Benjamin Albee	Alexander Lovell
John Allin	Henry Smith	John Metcalf
Timothy Dwight	Abraham Harding	Peter Adams
Daniel Morse	Thomas Thurston	Joshua Fisher
Thomas Ellis	John Bullen	Joseph Allen
Samuel Bullen	Josph Morse	John Partridge
Richard Wheeler	Henry Adams	John Warfield
Joshua Pratt	William Partridge	Thomas Thurston Jr.
John Ellis	John Fussell	Gershom Wheelock
Joseph Clark	John Bowers	Robert Mason
George Barber	John Frary Jr.	John Turner
Francis Hammant	Nicholas Rocket	

Of the above number, eighteen subscribed the paper by making their mark; from which fact it is fair to infer that they were not all of them writing masters, but their particular occupation is not stated.

On the "25th of the 10th month 1649," (Jan. 4, 1650, new style,) a meeting of the aforesaid committee was held, when Eleazer Lusher was chosen to keep the Records of Medfield, until another person should be chosen for the purpose. Rules are adopted for an equitable division of lands among the settlers, among which is the following; "It is ordered that in laying out House Lotts, Teaching and church officers shall be first provided for."

On the 11th of January, 1651, the town of Dedham formally transferred all their right, power and privileges of town government that hath hitherto or yet is remaining with them in regard to Medfield, either by their trustees or agents, unto the selectmen of Medfield.

1652 John Thurston, George Barber and Abraham Harding were chosen to lay out Highways for the "Towne's use," and were to allow for highway work; —

"Six acre lotts shall come in with their hands, and 12 acre "lotts with their temes, and those that have no temes, of the 12 "acre lotts, to come in 3 days for two."

"Brother grubb of boston is accepted as a fellow townsman "among us."

1653–4. "Ordered that for future the time of our yearly meeting shall Be upon The First and second Day of tho 12 month to begin at 9 of the clock, and in cace any of The inhabitants shall neglect to mak thir Appearance by 9 of the clock, they shall be liable to paie 12 d, and in cace They are absent the wholl day, They shall paie 3 s 4 d.

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF MEDFIELD.

FOR THE YEAR 1869.

FELLOW CITIZENS:

For various reasons, all of which it is unnecessary to spread before you, in detail, a part of our schools have failed to maintain the position which they held at the close of the last school-year. We desire, however, at the outset, to exonerate the teachers of those schools from any charge of intellectual incompetency, want of interest in their work, or unfaithfulness to their duty. We believe that their intellectual qualifications were sufficient; that their interest in the work was unquestionable; and that their purpose and endeavors to discharge their duty were conscientious and praiseworthy.

Reports, which have been spread by common rumor through the community, are not more worthy of credence, than the statements of responsible agents, to whom the supervision of the schools had been entrusted. Such agents have better opportunity, by frequent observation, to ascertain the real condition of the schools, and the character of a teacher's instruction and discipline, than others who seldom or never take pains to observe them. Their deliberate affirmations, too, when they have discovered the misapprehensions or the falsehood of popular rumor, may justly claim reliance. It is very easy to disseminate prejudice and create hostility respecting any institution, where popular rumor is listened to and accepted, without any endeavor to learn the source and ascertain the truth of it.

There may indeed be prejudice, which has its origin in supposed facts, and hostility, which is justifiable, where great interests are at stake. But it may be reasonably conceded to those, whose duty it has been made to watch over and gaurd the interests of the institution, to decide, on personal and careful investigation, what are facts in the case, and how far hostility is justifiable.

In the consideration of any one's imputed delinquency, it is universally admitted that attendant circumstances should have their due weight; and that a full knowledge of them is essential to any fair judgement in the case. Now in respect to these schools, there are circumstances, which are not apparent, at first view; or may be known only by the committee; but yet are deserving of consideration, in making up a fair judgement of their condition, and of the ability and usefulness of their teachers. The decisive influence of previous teachers; the temperament and preparatory training of present teachers; the dispositions and purposes of scholars in attendance; and what is not less important, their training and discipline at home, and the obvious and often injurious effect of their associations in the streets, are all proper to be taken into account, if we would fairly estimate the condition of the schools, and the character of their teachers. It is worthy of consideration, also, how much the irregular attendance of many scholars; the native dullness and and indifference of others; the absence of some on account of sickness, and the obvious effect of the early withdrawal of any upon those who remain, must tend to counteract a teacher's efforts, and to retard the progress of a school.

We are not disposed to deprecate any censure, which a teacher may justly deserve; nor do we undervalue the wish and anxiety of parents concerning an institution, the character and operation of which, is of so much consequence to their children; but we do ask, that all, which is mattter of fair consideration, be taken into account, before any fixed decision is promulgated. We do affirm, that in the honest exercise of our judgement, we have seen no sufficient reason for the severe censure, which some persons have pronounced upon the teachers; and the underestimate which has been made of the value of their labors, in the condition of those schools, which have been reputed least successful during the past year.

If children, who cannot often be presumed capable of a discriminating judgement respecting the propriety or impropriety of a

teacher's requisitions, or the necessity of studies, for which they have an aversion, are to be allowed to follow their own inclinations; if the authority of teachers is not to be upheld; if the counsels and prohibitions of the committee are to be treated with disdain, we may little wonder at the disorder and consequent waste of time and labor, which will be the result. So, also, if scholars have in any way imbibed a prejudice against a teacher, which prevents the reception of her instruction and moral influence; if there be no ardent desire for knowledge; no fixed purpose to obtain it; no quickening of the faculties in pursuit of it, we may little wonder, if the school does not equal its cost or our expectations. The maxim, "As is the teacher, such will be the school," is liable to be qualified by many circumstances, which may not be apparent at once. The opinion, on the one hand, that corporal punishment ought never to be resorted to; and on the other, that it should be inflicted in every case of disobedience or delinquency, is subject to various modifications, which every wise teacher will distinguish, and every Christain teacher will appreciate and adopt. Physical strength should no more be the principal governing power in a school, than entire laxity of discipline its unforbidden characteristic.

Centre District.

Of the schools, in this district we have to report as follows;—The primary department has been under the care and instruction of Miss Mary E. Morse, during the year. Miss Morse had the benefit of a course of preparatory instruction and experience in the Boston Training School for teachers; but had never before assumed the sole charge of any school. She had now to enter into the labors of another teacher of preeminent qualifications, and long successful experience: to assume the charge of a large school, which had been hitherto conducted in a manner to confer great benefit on all who attended it, and to be the pride and boast of the community. Young, and with no experience of a like sort, she had to take the place of one of mature age, who had commanded undivided confidence and favor amongst us.

Well knowing how difficult it would be to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of so good a teacher as the last, we had instituted inquiries in different quarters and used all posible means

to ascertain where a suitable person might be obtained. After repeated disappointments, and when the time for reopening the school was near at hand, Miss Morse was pointed out to us, by her teacher, as one who possessed sufficient intellectual attainments and decided energy; and her services were secured.

She entered upon her work with the best spirit and purpose. But the loss of the personal presence and influence of the former teacher was at once apparent to the committee, and taken advantage of by some of the children. Her amiable disposition yielded too much to childish thoughtlessness and impatience of restraint; and the sharpness of subsequent rebuke kindled something of a rebellious spirit. During the Summer, it appeared doubtful, at times, whether the school could be continued, in such a state. There were however, counterbalancing good traits in the character of the teacher; and, on the whole, a growing improvement of the scholars. Encouraged by the committee, and with her own persevering devotedness to the work, Miss Morse made herself more efficient in government and instruction, with every succeeding week of the Winter term. Sickness and irregular attendance interfered with the improvement of many scholars; but the condition of the school, in general, has been commendable; and the final examination was very gratifying. We seldom observe more prompt recitations, or excepting the boisterous vociferations of some scholars,—better reading, by any children of similar ages.

The senior department of this school was taught during the Summer, by Miss L. B. Keith, a graduate of Bridgewater Normal School, and an experienced, well qualified, and popular teacher. She too, like Miss Morse, succeeded one of the best and most effective teachers we have ever known here. But her experience and attainments and her personal presence and influence, enabled her to preserve an entire control of the school, to carry forward its progress, and to win general approbation and favor. We had hoped for her continuance here; but the offer of a more desirable position, elsewhere, induced her to leave.

The Winter term of the school was taught by Miss Mary G. Westgate, a recent graduate of Bridgewater Normal School. Her examination by the committee did not quite equal the expectations which her preparatory training had encouraged. We have been disappointed in like manner, by other Normal School teachers, in

respect to elementary branches, which had not been subjects of recent review. There is a great disadvantage in such a deficiency; because it deprives a teacher of that entire confidence, on the part of the committee, with which it is allimportant that her work should be begun, It has its effect, also, on the scholars, if it becomes in any way known to them or their parents. In several respects, Miss Westgate appeared to be admirably qualified for the position, and she received our approbation.

The school was attended by a number of large boys, whose physical strength far exceeded that of their teacher; and with whom self-respect and moral influence seemed to be of little account. Purposely, or thoughtlessly, they become disrespectful. disorderly and indifferent to instruction. The effect of their example spread through the school. Several of the oldest and best scholars, of preceding terms, had left the school, causing a marked change in its appearance; and others were withdrawn, soon after its commencement, leaving the suspicion of a want of confidence in the teacher, which must obviously have been an injury to the school. The interference of the committee was called for several times, and the immediate expulsion of scholars, guilty of gross misconduct, was authorized. But, notwithstanding the difficulties and depressing circumstances of her position, Miss Westgate continued perseveringly and conscientiously devoted to duty, and achieved a result creditable to herself, and of no small benefit to her scholars. The final examination of the school surpassed our expectations: and the many expressions of warm regard, which she received from a portion of the scholars, were convincing proofs that her labors and her influence had not been fruitless. She leaves us with the assurance of our increased confidence in her ability, devotedness to her work, and peculiar adaptation to many positions of usefulness and success, as a teacher.

North District.

The primary school, in this district, has been taught during the year, by Miss Lucy M. Lane, She was recommended by Mess'rs Allen, of West Newton, to whom her character and ability were well known, and whose interest in our schools readily called forth every exertion for their benefit. Her labors have fully justified her

recommendation, and equalled our expectations. With an equable and mild, yet firm spirit, she has steadily pursued a course of government and instruction, which, if it has produced no very striking progress in the attainments of her scholars, has won their respect and warm attachment, and the general confidence and esteem of their parents. Far better is such an influence as her's upon young children, than that which effects rapid advances in superficial knowledge, without regard to the moral habits and character, which will accompany them. We hope for the continuance of Miss Lane's useful and acceptable services through another year.

The senior department of the school has been under the care and instruction of Miss Fanny E. Sanderson, of Somerville. She came to us, just before the commencement of the school, in place of her elder sister,— a graduate of the Boston Training School,— whose commendation, by her teacher, had led us to form high expectations of her ability and success. The number of scholars was small, and good opportunity offered for the best results in their progress and attainments. An examination of the teacher satisfied us of her apparent intellectual ability, and her energy. During a large part of the term, the apparent diligence, order and respectful deportment of the scholars claimed our confidence, and was very gratifying; encouraging the hope of corresponding progress in their attainments. It would now seem that the favorable aspect of the school was only apparent and but for the occasion of the committee's presence. Reports were circulated of great disorder in the school, and dissatisfaction among the parents, for which we could then find no sufficient cause. But a prejudice had been created and disseminated through the district, the obvious effect of which was ruinous upon the school. Disorder soon culminated in personal abuse of the teacher, and the complete termination of her usefulness. A majority of the scholars had already withdrawn; and the school was closed before the expiration of the appointed term. We are at no loss now, to discover reasons for the teacher's entire failure of success; but we cannot understand how without gross deception on their part, the real disposition of the scholars and condition of the school should be so long and completely concealed from us.

While there are so few, in this district, to attend school, we recommend the union of the separate departments, under the care of one *experienced* and competent teacher. And we trust that the

result of another year's cost and labor will be only the more gratifying, in consequence of the unsatisfactory and monitory condition of the senior department of the school, at the enforced conclusion of the last term.

South District.

The school, in this district, has been taught, during the year, by Miss Susan J. Woods. of this town. She had formerly occupied the same position, with entire satisfaction to the committee then superintending the schools. Possessing important natural and acquired qualifications, and having had much experience, she has proved herself a most useful and successful teacher. Her instruction is careful and thorough. Perfect order, obedience and a good degree of industry are maintained, without needless, irksome restraint of the youngest, or severely enforced submission of the oldest scholars. The controlling force in the school is a steady and uniformly quiet personal influence. The number of scholars in the district is small and they are of very different ages and capacities. Several of them, in consequence of their position at home, are irregular in attendance at school and at great disadvantage in their studies. No striking results in intellectual progress are to be looked for, at the conclusion of any single term; but it is to be hoped, that, under the continued care and instruction of Miss Woods, the reputation which this school once had, for superior scholarship and attainments, will yet be regained.

In view of the general subject of education in schools like our own, we feel and cannot but express the conviction that too many things are attempted at once; too many different branches are required to be studied daily and successively through the term, in order that the quantity of labor by the teacher, and of study by the scholars may appear to have been praiseworthy. The idea of cramming the mind as a barrel may be crammed, is absurd, and the attempt to effect it will only result in injury to both the physical and mental health of a child. It is of much less importance that the mind be stored with a great mass of facts, than that it be so carefully and wisely trained, as to be always in a condition to receive and avail itself of whatever knowledge may be attainable in future. The physical and moral health of children at school is of, at least, as much

consequence, as their intellectual attainments; and no right minded teacher will neglect the former, in order to increase the latter. We think, also, that the ordinary routine of study in our schools is too monotonous; that it becomes wearisome, and detrimental, if not fatal to the cheerful life and spirit of the place. We would either diminish the number of daily exercises, or diversify the present routine, by assigning different days for the performance of them. Let arithmetic, for instance, be attended to one day, and geography, another; and grammar, or some other branch, yet another. Whatever exercise is assigned for a given time, let it be solely and thoroughly attended to, so that the instruction given shall be made the positive possession of each scholar, never to be lost. More solid gain will, in this way, be acquired, even if the scholar's progress, from page to page and book to book, be slower.

Again; we conceive that more attention should be given, in schools like our own, to those exercises, which are best fitted to supply the future wants of children, whose opportunity for the education here afforded, must be limited and will often, perhaps, be interrupted. Probably, a large part of the children who now attend these schools, are here to receive all the educational preparation they will have to enable them better to earn a comfortable support in after life. It would seem, therefore, that the exercises required of them should have special reference to this circumstance. Let them, in addition to reading, spelling, and the simple elements of arithmetic and geography, give particular attention to writing, and free hand-drawing; and whatever will be most likely to be of service to them in any mechanical or industrial occupation. And with all the scholars, let the forenoon of each day be wholly devoted to such studies as require close, undivided application of the mental faculties; and the afternoon, to a critical exercise in reading; — during which much interesting and useful information may be given by any well informed and well disposed teacher; — in spelling, and writing. On alternate days let drawing take the place of writing: and let each day close with music. Similar suggestions have received the approval of intelligent and interested friends of education; and we hope these may lead to the trial of the plan we have offered, or of some other which will be yet more useful.

In these last remarks, we have had in view, particularly our grammar schools and the higher classes in an ungraded school. In

the primary schools, and with all very young children, we would also have fewer excercises required, and these brief and varied as much as practicable. But let them all be carefully attended to. Let the eye and hand of the child be cultivated, as well as the mental faculties. Let the afternoon of each day be devoted to printing, drawing, writing, and some oral teaching, or music. Let a cheerful and contented spirit be made to pervade the place. Let the interest of children be awakened by object teaching and by occasional use of some reading book of simple and pleasing character. The "NURSERY," * is a publication, than which none is more attractive to children or has been found more useful in schools where it has been introduced. Coming fresh every month, it continually offers something new, for which children are looking forward with eager expectation, in place of those lessons, to which they are confined by a fixed unvarying routine. We have already seen a gratifying result from the partial and occasional use of this little work in our schools, and we observe that it has been extensively used in New Bedford and other places, with decidedly beneficial effect.

RESPECTFULLY PRESENTED,
FOR THE COMMITTEE,
CHAS. C. SEWALL.

Read in town meeting, March 7. 1870.

* A work published, monthly, in Boston, by John L. Shorey, 13, Washington street.

STATISTICS.

Schools.	Term.	Weeks.	Scholars.	Average attend'nce	Per cent.	Under 5	Over 15
Centre Primary.	Sum.	10	44	36	81.8		
	Fall.	10	47	41.75	88.3		
	Win.	12	35	29.75	85		
Grammar.	Sum.	10	33	30	90.9		
	Fall.	10	35	33	94.2		1
	Win.	12	46	38.50	83.6		6
North Primary.	Sum.	10	37	32	86.4		
	Fall.	10	38	34	89.2		2
	Win.	12	22	19	86.2		
Grammar.	Win.	11	25	18	72		5
South.	Sum.	10	24	19.5	81.2	2	3
	Fall.	9					
	*Win.	10	27	21.1	78.1		6

* Not yet closed.